

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in reply to the final Office Action dated June 22, 2004, within the three-month period for response. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the subject Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-8, 13-18, 20-22, 25-31, and 33-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacNaughton et al. in view of Suzuki et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,932,270 to Abraham et al. Furthermore, the Examiner rejected claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacNaughton et al. in view of Suzuki in further view of Abraham in further view of the Yahoo! "Chat Comp: Lobby" reference. In addition, claims 9, and 11-12 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacNaughton et al. in view of Kavner. The Examiner did indicate, however, that claims 19 and 32 were directed to allowable subject matter.

While Applicants continue to traverse the Examiners rejections, Applicants have now amended all claims to incorporate subject matter found allowable by the Examiner.

In particular, claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, and 22 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 19, with claims 7-8, 15 and 17 canceled without prejudice, and with a number of the aforementioned claims being further amended to eliminate redundancies in the claims resulting from the amendment of these claims to depend from claim 19.

In addition, independent claim 25 has been amended to recite the subject matter from claim 32 that the Examiner found to be allowable over the prior art of record, namely, the concept of building a list of favorite links associated with a hypertext document being viewed by a first user by combining lists of favorite links associated with each user currently viewing the same hypertext document as the first user. In connection with these amendments, claim 32 has been canceled, and moreover, the subject matter relating to user-editable saved user lists, which was added to claim 25 via a prior

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amendment, has been removed from claim 25 and incorporated into a new claim 40 that depends from claim 25. Applicants note that, as the Examiner found claim 19 to be allowable without the inclusion of user-editable lists, claim 25 is allowable even with the omission of such language from the claim.

Finally, Applicants have added new claim 41, which is based in part on claim 19, but which is more specifically focused upon the novel concept of building a list of favorite links associated with a hypertext document by combining lists of favorite links associated with other users currently viewing the same hypertext document. Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 41 is allowable over the prior art of record for the same reasons as claim 19. Consideration and allowance of this claim are therefore respectfully requested.

As a final matter, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made herein do not raise any new issues, and are therefore properly entered after final. In particular, the amendments submitted herewith merely place the claims in better condition for allowance, and incorporate subject matter that the Examiner has already found to be distinguishable over the prior art of record.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits


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are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,



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